

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1.-26. (Canceled).

27. (Withdrawn) An illumination system comprising:  
a central control unit; and  
at least one lamp operating device for operating one or more  
associated lamps, wherein  
the lamp operating device can be operated in different operational  
modes, and  
the central control unit and the lamp operating device are so  
configured that the selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating  
device can be carried out from or via the central control unit.

28. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27,  
wherein the operational mode of the lamp operating device makes possible a dimming of  
the associated lamps.

29. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27,  
wherein the selection and setting of the operational mode for the lamp operating device is  
effected through a transmission of a corresponding control command from the central  
control unit.

30. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 29, further comprising a bus line system via which the central control unit is connected with the lamp operating device and which is provided for the transmission of control commands.

31. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the lamp operating device includes a memory for storing information relating to operational modes available for operation of the lamp.

32. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the lamp operating device operates the lamp associated therewith in a base function when no operational mode has been selected.

33. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 32, wherein within a scope of the base function, the lamp operating device switches on and switches off the lamp associated therewith.

34. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, is alterable by means of the central control unit.

35. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 34, wherein the central control unit increases the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum-brightness level of the lamp, in response to an increasing operating time.

36. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 35, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type.

37. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 36, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

38. (Currently Amended) A lamp operating device constructed to operate a lamp, the lamp operating device being operable in one of a plurality of selectable operational modes, wherein the lamp operating device is constructed to receive at least one command for the selection and setting of the operational mode provided by a central control unit, and wherein the lamp operating device is also constructed to interpret at least one command provided by a local control unit, wherein the interpretation of the command provided by the local control unit is based on the operational mode selected and set by the central control unit, to control the lamp.

39. (Withdrawn) A lamp operating device for operating an associated lamp, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, can be externally set.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a lamp, wherein the method comprises:

at a central control unit, issuing at least one command for the selection and setting of an operational mode of a lamp operating device;

at a local control unit, issuing at least one command for the control of the lamp;

at the lamp operating device, receiving and interpreting the at least one command from the central control unit and, in response to the command from the central control unit, selecting and setting the operational mode of the lamp operating device; and

at the lamp operating device, receiving and interpreting the at least one command from the local control unit and operating the lamp independently based on both the selected operational mode of the lamp operating device and the received command from the local control unit.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the selection of the operational mode for the lamp operating device includes transmitting an external control command from the central control unit.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein at least one of the operational modes of the lamp operating device makes possible a dimming of the lamp.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein operating the lamp operating device operates the lamp in accordance with a base function when no operational mode has been selected.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein operating the lamp operating device further includes switching on and switching off the associated lamp within a scope of the base function.

45. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 40, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level which can be set by means of the lamp operating device can be altered.

46. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 45, wherein a switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level of the lamp (LA), is increased in response to an increasing operational time.

47. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 46, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type.

48. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a lamp by means of a lamp operating device, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, is alterable.

50. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 49, wherein the switched-on brightness level or the maximum brightness level of the lamp is increased in response to an increasing operational time.

51. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 50, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type and/or a luminaire type.

52. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 51, wherein by means of an increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp and/or a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

53. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 36, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

54. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 35, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a luminaire type.

55. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 54, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

56. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 54, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

57. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

58. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 46, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a luminaire type.

59. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

60. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

61. (Previously Presented) A system for operating a lamp comprising:

a lamp operating device constructed to operate a lamp;

a central control unit constructed to issue at least one command for the selection and setting of an operational mode of the lamp operating device;

a local control unit constructed to issue at least one command for the control of the lamp;

wherein, the lamp operating device is constructed to receive and interpret the at least one command from the central control unit and, in response to the command from the central control unit, the lamp operating device selects and sets the operational mode of the lamp operating device, and wherein the lamp operating device is constructed to operate the lamp independently based on both the at least one command received from the local control unit and the selected operational mode.

62. (Previously Presented) A lamp operating device constructed to operate a lamp, wherein the lamp operating device is constructed to select and set an operational mode of the lamp operating device based upon a reception and interpretation of at least one command from a central control unit, and wherein the lamp operating device is constructed to operate the lamp independently based on both the operational mode selected and at least one command received from a local control unit.